

When you need a hand...

Schwarz and Associates

A Christian Marriage and Family Counseling Practice

Office 562-467-6978

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Confidentiality Agreement

Once you become an official client of Schwarz and Associates you have the right to confidentiality. Although there are exceptions, (listed below) **generally no one** will have access to information about you without your signed informed consent or a court order. This is the law for therapists in the state of California; however, there are exceptions that arise from certain California legal mandates. **These exceptions are:**

1. **The necessity of reporting to authorities, with or without the client's consent, any information, which may indicate the presence of child or elder abuse or neglect.**
2. **The necessity of reporting to authorities and the potential victim, with or without the client's consent, should it appear that the client or a person known to the client intends to seriously hurt another person, and/or destroy another's property.**
3. **The necessity to take appropriate steps to prevent a suicide attempt, with or without the client's consent, should a suicide attempt appear imminent.**

In all cases an effort will be made to inform the client and /or the legal guardian (if client is a minor) that a report will be made to the appropriate authorities, before such report is actually made.

One **additional exception** to the general confidentiality right is in regards to Unlicensed Marriage and Family Therapy Interns:

4. **California law requires all Unlicensed Marriage and Family Therapy Interns to be supervised by a Licensed Therapist.**

At Schwarz and Associates, part of our work is in growing Christian Marriage and Family Therapists, and as such, you may be working with an unlicensed therapist who will be required to be in supervision weekly. This supervision will require the therapist to discuss in detail, with his or her Supervisor your treatment so as to provide you with the very best quality of help we can. This supervision will sometimes necessitate videotaping your sessions; this is something that has been determined by California law to be one of the necessary ways clinical Supervisors utilize to help Marriage and Family Therapy Interns to obtain needed feedback about the quality of their work. These videotapes are only used to help to facilitate your therapist's growth as a therapist and to help you have the very best standard of treatment. Each videotape is kept locked securely away and the tapes are not allowed out of the Schwarz and Associates offices. Additionally, the tapes are erased within one month of the date created.

Signature of Client (Person acting for Client)

Printed Name of Client

Date

I, _____, title _____, have discussed the issues above with the client (and/or the person acting for the client). My observations of the person's behavior and responses give me no reason to believe that this person is not fully competent to give informed and willing consent.

Signature of Therapist with Title

Date